

Remarks

The Final Office Action mailed August 1, 2006 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 11-20 are now pending in this application. Claims 11-20 stand rejected. Claims 1-10 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 11 and 18 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Applicants acknowledge the restriction requirement being made FINAL.

The rejection of Claims 11-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ritz et al. (U.S. Patent 3,872,565) is respectfully traversed.

Ritz et al. describe a seal installation fixture (20) for installing seals (58 and 62) in the flange (14) of a reactor vessel (10) wherein fixture (20) supports the seals (58 and 62) and automatically releases the seals (58 and 62) when fixture (20) comes into contact with the flange (14) of the reactor vessel (10). Seal installation fixture (20) includes a ring (38), a hollow cylindrical hub (42), and a plurality of spokes (44) extending from hub (42) to ring (38). Cylindrical hub (42) is positioned within top and bottom planes defined by the top and bottom surfaces, respectively, of fixture (20) as shown in Figure 2.

Claim 11 recites a rotor blade installation tool for coupling a plurality of rotor blades to a rotor disc wherein each rotor blade extends from the rotor disc to a radially outer blade tip, the tool includes "a blade engagement end configured to engage the plurality of rotor blades between the rotor disc and the radially outer blade tip, said blade engagement end comprising an engagement top surface . . . at least one brace coupled to said blade engagement end at a first end of said at least one brace . . . and a guide end coupled to a second end of said at least one brace, said guide end comprising a body including a guide end top surface positioned above said engagement top surface."

Ritz et al. do not describe nor suggest a rotor blade installation tool as recited in Claim 11. More specifically, Ritz et al. do not describe nor suggest a rotor blade installation

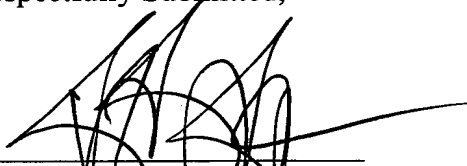
tool including a blade engagement end having an engagement top surface and a guide end including a body having a guide end top surface, where the guide end top surface is positioned above the engagement top surface. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Ritz et al. describe a cylindrical hub (42) positioned within top and bottom planes defined by the top and bottom surfaces, respectively, of fixture (20) as shown in Figure 2.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 11 is submitted to be patentable over Ritz et al. Claims 12-20 depend from independent Claim 11. When the recitations of Claims 12-20 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 11, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 12-20 likewise are patentable over Ritz et al.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 11-20 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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